

STAFF SUMMARY OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION IN THE 113TH U.S. CONGRESS

A summary of recent Federal legislation is attached. This summary is intended as a general overview for discussion purposes. Full text of these bills, with background information and current status, can be found at the Library of Congress website (<http://thomas.gov>) or at <http://govtrack.us>. These summaries are primarily from the GovTrack.us website, further summarized by Council staff.

In addition, two issues that the Council has been following were resolved at the end of the 113th Congress.

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act was incorporated into the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, signed into law on December 18, 2014. The Act extends the current exemption for all fishing vessels of any size (and non-fishing vessels under 79 feet) from the Environmental Protection Agency's NPDES¹ discharge permit requirements. The EPA regulations were previously poised to take effect on December 18, 2014; the exemption was extended until December 18, 2017.

REFI Act

The REFI Act (HR 2646) was included at the last minute in the National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law on December 19, 2014. The Act lowers the interest rate on the 2003 Federal trawl buyback loan. In 2003, the interest rate was 6.7 percent; it has now been lowered to the current Treasury rate (which is several points lower), and the loan term was extended to 45 years. In addition, the NOAA recovery fee is capped at 3 percent. The total annual savings to fleet (120 active vessels) is estimated at over \$1 million per year. The bill was sponsored by Jaime Herrera-Beutler (WA), Maria Cantwell (WA), Peter DeFazio (OR), and Jared Huffman (CA).

PFMC
03/02/15

¹ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Fishery Bills in the 114th Congress (and Selected State Bills)

California state bill

AB 226 Pacific to Plate

Introduced 2/3/2015 Would clarify and streamline state laws that currently treat fish markets differently from other food facilities. Would allow fishermen's markets to operate as food facilities; allow fresh fish to be cleaned for direct sale at the markets; streamline the permitting process, so commercial fishermen can organize under a single permit.

C

Sponsor: Toni Atkins (Cal Assembly)
 Cosponsors:
 Status:
 Companion bill:
 Last updated: 2/10/2015

House

HR 291 Water in the 21st Century Act (W21)

Introduced 1/13/2015 Sets up \$1.95 billion in loans and grants over 5 years for water recycling, storm water capture and treatment, ground water management and water infrastructure projects. Sets aside \$6 million to study the feasibility of desalination.

C

Sponsor: Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
 Cosponsors: 28, all D
 Status: Reintroduced
 Companion bill: S 176 (Boxer)
 Last updated: 3/2/2015

HR 330 Marine Access and State Transparency

Introduced 1/13/2015 To amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes.

C

Sponsor: Don Young (R-AK)
 Cosponsors: None
 Status: Referred to House Natural Resources Committee
 Companion bill: HR 900 (Labrador), S 437 (Murkowski), S 228 (Crapo)
 Last updated: 2/17/2015

HR 337 Maritime Lien Reform Act

Introduced
1/13/2015

To provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits

A

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Don Young (R-AK)	None	Reintroduced		3/2/2015

HR 393 Untitled (Labeling of GMO fish)

Introduced
1/14/2015

To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish.

D

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Don Young (R-AK)	6, bipartisan	Reintroduced		2/17/2015

HR 528 Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act

Introduced
1/26/2015

To direct Federal public land management officials to exercise their authority under existing law to facilitate use of and access to Federal public lands for fishing, sport hunting, and recreational shooting, and for other purposes

D

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Dan Benishek (R-MI)	35, all R	Reintroduced		2/17/2015

HR 564 Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act

Introduced
1/27/2015

To amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes. Identical to Hastings bill submitted in 113th Congress.

A

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Kurt Schraeder (D-OR) & Jaime Herrera-Beutler (R-WA)	1	Reintroduced		3/2/2015

HR 774**Untitled (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act)**Introduced
2/5/2015

Enhances NOAA's and USCG's authority to regulate illegal fishing. Increases capacity for inspection, identification, and monitoring of illegal foreign vessels. Facilitates data sharing with other governments. Amends the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to direct the Secretary of Commerce to enforce that Act and several others. Contains implementing language for the Antigua Convention. Passed unanimously by the House Natural Resources Committee last year.

A

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam)	12, bipartisan	Reintroduced		3/2/2015

HR 900**National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act**Introduced
2/11/2015

To amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

C

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Raul Labrador (R-ID)	6, all R	Referred to House Natural Resources Committee	HR 330 (Young), S 437 (Murkowski), S 228 (Crapo)	2/17/2015

HR 980**Vessel Incidental Discharge Act**Introduced
2/13/2015

Makes vessel discharge exception permanent.

A

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Duncan Hunter (R-CA)	2 (bipartisan)	Reported by committee 2/26/15.	S 373 (Rubio)	3/2/2015

HR 981**Red Snapper Regulatory Reform Act**Introduced
2/13/2015

To amend the MSA to improve the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper fishery by providing flexibility for fishing managers and stability for fishermen...

F

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Bradley Byrne (R-AK)	3	Introduced		2/17/2015

Senate

S 132 Oregon and California Land Grant Act

Introduced 1/8/2015 A bill to improve timber management on Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road grant land, and for other purposes. Increases some harvest, protects other forests.

D

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Ron Wyden (D-OR)	1	Reintroduced		2/10/2015

S 133 Klamath Basin Water Recovery and Economic Restoration Act

Introduced 1/8/2015 A bill to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin, etc. Discussed by LC in June 2014.

B

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Ron Wyden (D-OR)	3, all D	Reintroduced		3/2/2015

S 176 W21

Introduced 1/13/2015 A bill to advance integrated water management and development through innovation, resiliency, conservation, and efficiency in the 21st century, and for other purposes.

C

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	2	Reintroduced	HR 291 (Napolitano)	2/3/2015

S 190 Imported Seafood Safety Standards Act

Introduced 1/20/2015 Amends the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit importation of seafood into the U.S. from a foreign country unless the seafood is certified compliant with U.S. standards. Foreign export facilities and twenty percent of all imported seafood would be inspected yearly. Foreign seafood could only be imported at ports that have personnel trained to conduct inspections.

B

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
David Vitter (R-LA)	0	Introduced		3/2/2015

S 225 Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act

Introduced 1/21/2015 A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from a definition under that Act

D

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
John Thune (R-SD)	1	Reintroduced	S 405 (Murkowski)	2/10/2015

S 228 National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015

Introduced 1/21/2015 A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide for congressional and State approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments.

C

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Michael Crapo (R-ID)	16, all R	Referred to Senate Energy & Natural Resources	HR 900 (Labrador), S 437 (Murkowski), HR 330 (Young)	2/17/2015

S 373 Vessel Incidental Discharge Act

Introduced 2/4/2015 A bill to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

A

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Marco Rubio (R-FL)	19, bipartisan	Reported by committee 2/26/15	HR 980	3/2/2015

S 405 Untitled (Sportsmen's Act)

Introduced 2/5/2015 A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

D

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	5, bipartisan	Reintroduced. Reported by committee 2/9/2015. Placed on Senate calendar.	HR 225 (Thune), S 556 (Murkowski)	3/2/2015

S 437 Improved National Monument Designation Process Act

Introduced
2/10/2015

A bill to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes.

C

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	1	Reintroduced. Referred to Senate Energy and Natural Resources.	HR 900 (Labrador), S 228 (Crapo), HR 330 (Young)	2/17/2015

S 556 Untitled (Congressional approval of monuments)

Introduced
2/25/2015

A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes

D

Sponsor:	Cosponsors:	Status:	Companion bill:	Last updated:
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	0	Reintroduced	HR 225 (Thune), S 405 (Murkowski)	2/25/2015

Note: Grades in boxes on the left side are priority ratings. A, B, C = immediately relevant (in decreasing importance) to Pacific Council fisheries or having to do with major changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. D, F = Interesting for other reasons, such as setting a precedent or indirectly affecting Council-managed fisheries. Names in parentheses are used when current legislation is untitled but similar legislation was submitted in previous congress by the same sponsor.